

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2004

Giant US bank asked to pay 'fair rental' for UP's Forbes Park lot

By Carlito Pablo

THE GRANDSON-LAWMAKER and namesake of the late nationalist Senator Lorenzo Tañada yesterday took on global finance giant Citibank for refusing to pay "fair rental" on a prime property owned by the University of the Philippines.

In his first privilege speech, neophyte Rep. Lorenzo Tañada III (LP, Quezon) accused Citibank of having "employed its corporate might and its vast legal resources to try and get away with highway robbery at the expense of our foremost public university."

"While our premiere university—like much of the rest of the nation—stands beset by economic hardship and uncertainty, the world's richest bank refuses to pay fair rental value on prime property it has enjoyed for a quarter century," Tañada said.

He was referring to the 4,500-square-meter UP property at No. 38 McKinley Drive in Forbes Park, Makati, one of the country's most exclusive addresses and currently the residence of Citibank country chief James Hunt.

Tañada said Citibank first owned the property by virtue of the Laurel-Langley Agreement which allowed US nationals and companies to own lands in the Philippines.

When the accord expired in 1974, Citibank donated the property to UP but continued using it under a long-term lease.

"But that value redounded to the benefit of Citibank, which secured a 25-year lease from UP in 1976 allowing it to pay only about P1,000 a month for 25 years," Tañada said.

UP agreed on the bargain lease price "in anticipation of the time when it could make full use of this resource, which today it sorely needs in the face of declining state subsidies for higher education and spiraling costs."

The Citibank lease expired on Dec. 28, 2001 and that's when the problem over the re-negotiation of the lease began.

Appraisers placed the "fair rental value" of the property at P300,000 a month.

"But instead of recognizing this figure, Citibank offered UP a check of P16,378.33 as rental for 2002 which UP refused to accept," Tañada said.

UP insisted on a "fair rental and on an escalation clause to account for fluctuations in the peso-dollar rate."



TANADA III: World's richest bank paid P 1,000 a month for 25 years.

ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

"Over the next two years, Citibank raised its offer to P66,500 until it reached P150,000 a month, but it was still short of the appraised fair rental value," Tañada said.

UP refused this offer and presented a counter offer of \$10,000 a month or its peso equivalent.

Citibank, however, stood firm on its offer of P150,000 a month with no provision for escalation.

"Just a little over a week ago, with all venues for an amicable settlement exhausted over three years of patient but fruitless negotiation, UP President Francisco Nemenzo finally wrote Citibank a letter demanding that they vacate the Forbes Park property, as provided for by the lease contract," Tañada said.

He noted that UP has successfully pursued its claim to other properties previously covered by the Laurel-Langley Agreement. He cited Shell's depot in Pandacan, Manila for which the oil company had agreed to pay UP the amount of P75 million over the next 25 years.

He added that UP is about to sign another agreement with 3M Philippines over the use of the university's property in Muntinlupa for the company's manufacturing operations.

Tañada said that Citibank has been doing business in the Philippines since 1902 and "we would like to think of Citibank as a reliable partner and friend."

However, he couldn't help but wonder: "Which Citibank has UP been dealing with—the noble institution of the website, or the arrogant, overstaying master who still thinks he can do as he pleases with the poor natives."

"I hope that its present country head, Mr. James Hunt, helps us make up our minds," he said.

RP already in midst of fiscal crisis—GMA

From page 1

medium where the special measures—the PHP-Philippines Tax Relief Bill—became effective before the business community "closed."

Citing the definition and by the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, he said, "A crisis is when a country is in default, its debt is not manageable and it has no access to foreign capital markets. Clearly, this is the case for the Philippines."

Wagner later implied that he was referring to the proposed resolution, the country is in a state of crisis.

"Also, should we say that we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default? That is not yet a fiscal crisis," he said.

Wagner explained that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are far from a fiscal crisis (yet) but we are in a fiscal crisis when we are not yet in default," he said.

Wagner also said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

Revenue and Finance Dept. of the Philippine Office of the President. "We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

Declaration target: IRA

By G.C. Ceballos Jr.

MANILA (Special) — President Arroyo and President Macapagal-Arroyo's declaration of a fiscal crisis in this country, being a statement in declaring that the government is in a fiscal crisis.

Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate committee on Finance, said that the government is in a fiscal crisis.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

Governors oppose bid to suspend IRA release

From page 1

ould suspend the delivery of the IRA release.

According to the latest survey, the IRA release is a major issue for the business community.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

According to the latest survey, the IRA release is a major issue for the business community.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

According to the latest survey, the IRA release is a major issue for the business community.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

GMA retains team of economic managers

From page 1

Wagner said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

Wagner said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

Wagner said that the country would only be in a fiscal crisis when the government could no longer pay its debts. The government is still capable of doing so.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

"We are not in a fiscal crisis," he said.

The World

Lita Lameris B. Guoco

Bird flu in pigs takes world closer to pandemic—WHO

MANILA, Malaysia—The reported discovery of a lethal strain of bird flu in Chinese pigs takes the world closer to a human flu pandemic than there has ever been, says the World Health Organization (WHO) Monday.

WHO regional director for the Western Pacific, Margaret Chan, warned however of a "big bubble" that could last several years before bird flu is wiped out in Asia due to poor management and movement of animal husbandry.

WHO was at a recent conference here shortly before Chan's agricultural ministry decided that flu was confined to piglets only. The ministry did not say whether it had been discovered in pigs in 2003, as reported by a respected Chinese newspaper.

One told reporters later that the WHO is still in Beijing waiting to see WHO's response—China Flu, based on the Chinese—Chen Pingping, head of the Chinese Center for Animal Diseases Prevention Laboratory, as yet seen news reports.

for the outbreak of H5N1 in 2003 and to "watch" it in 2004, but only because it is a disease that has not been reported.

Chan has warned that if pigs are infected, the virus could spread to a more lethal strain in which it could spread more easily to humans. Pigs are a "mixing vessel" in which viruses swap genes.

WHO, the most deadly virus of the last few years, has killed 27 people since late May. The WHO from it could mean a new H5N1 virus, which is a new virus.

"The WHO view is that this is a big bubble that we have to fight to avoid a pandemic," Chan said. "We cannot think it is a big bubble because the virus is circulating among people, which is a dangerous situation."

"There is a danger that this virus will get the ability to spread to humans," Chan said.

Chan said the WHO did not recommend vaccination to fight

bird flu because "surveillance for animals is necessary in this region" and "surveillance" is a key to a "big bubble" in the region.

Chan said WHO's efforts to control a virus outbreak that spread to humans, which is a "big bubble" in the region.

"We must ensure we have a strong surveillance system in place," Chan said. "We must ensure we have a strong surveillance system in place."

"We must ensure we have a strong surveillance system in place," Chan said. "We must ensure we have a strong surveillance system in place."

"We must ensure we have a strong surveillance system in place," Chan said. "We must ensure we have a strong surveillance system in place."

"We must ensure we have a strong surveillance system in place," Chan said. "We must ensure we have a strong surveillance system in place."



PALESTINIAN woman holds a picture of a relative killed in the West Bank, during a protest in the West Bank city of Nablus, Aug. 22. The number of human rights violations in the West Bank has increased to 1,300 in the week since the protest was launched.

US troops, Shiite rebels battle near Najaf

NAJAF, Iraq—US troops and Shiite rebels fought heavy battles in the holy city of Najaf on Monday with multiple casualties and gun fire echoing across the city.

In at least 10 explosions, some involving anti-aircraft shells, rocketed the area near the US troops.

Shiite forces, armed with rifles and rocket launchers, were seen in the city. The US troops were seen in the city.

In an apparent indication of the US's demand that the Shiite rebels stop the fighting, the US troops were seen in the city.

"The religious establishment will be in charge of security and they should have their own army," said the US troops.

Spending on weapons in the city was seen in the city.

months ago and have the strong prospect of getting back ready for elections in January.

The US troops were seen in the city.

The US troops were seen in the city.

Israel builds more settler homes upon US go-signal

TEL AVIV, Israel—In building 100 new homes in a settlement near Jerusalem, political leaders and US officials on Monday said that Israel is building more settler homes upon US go-signal.

The US troops were seen in the city.

The US troops were seen in the city.

Globe PLATINUM

Sweet Deals. PURE INDULGENCE.

As an added treat we give you the **PURE INDULGENCE PACKAGES**

Package	Price	Includes
1. 100% Pure Indulgence	\$1,000.00	100% Pure Indulgence
2. 100% Pure Indulgence	\$1,000.00	100% Pure Indulgence
3. 100% Pure Indulgence	\$1,000.00	100% Pure Indulgence
4. 100% Pure Indulgence	\$1,000.00	100% Pure Indulgence
5. 100% Pure Indulgence	\$1,000.00	100% Pure Indulgence
6. 100% Pure Indulgence	\$1,000.00	100% Pure Indulgence
7. 100% Pure Indulgence	\$1,000.00	100% Pure Indulgence
8. 100% Pure Indulgence	\$1,000.00	100% Pure Indulgence
9. 100% Pure Indulgence	\$1,000.00	100% Pure Indulgence
10. 100% Pure Indulgence	\$1,000.00	100% Pure Indulgence

Darfur talks reopen

US, UN, Nigeria... Pushed to end what the United Nations calls the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

WorldBriefs

- Bangladesh schools close after blasts**
Bangladesh schools closed after a series of blasts in the capital, Dhaka, on Monday.
- Hogatit C vaccine**
A vaccine to control Hogatit C could be a breakthrough after a series of trials in the United States.
- North Korea calls Bush imbecile**
North Korea's leader, Kim Jong-il, called US President George W. Bush an "imbecile" in a speech on Monday.
- Southeast Asia passport checks**
Southeast Asian countries are using new passport checks to monitor the movement of people.

Thieves take Oslo masterpieces

OSLO—Several soldiers took "The Scream" and another masterpiece by Norwegian artist Edvard Munch on Sunday in a bold, dramatic raid on an Oslo museum in front of dozens of astonished tourists.

Two masked robbers ran into the Munch Museum, threatened staff with a handgun and forced people to lie down before grabbing "The Scream," an icon of 19th-century angst showing a wail-like figure against a blood-red sky, and "Madonna."

Some stunned visitors said they feared they were victims of a terror attack. The men simply walked out the front door—with one pushing a shopping cart filled with bags and boxes.

Hours before the robbery, the police saw among Munch's best-known, even though he produced several versions of both. They took "Madonna" down a mysterious tunnel.

"We're following all possible leads," but we don't know who did this," police detective chief Inspector Eirik Fjellanger told a news conference. One of the thieves spoke during the robbery in Norwegian.

The stolen masterpieces of the paintings were found scattered and scattered along an Oslo street and the two men reportedly found abandoned a few kilometers away with no trace of the paintings.

At such, a founder of modern expressionism, who lived from 1863 to 1944, painted the two works as part of a series about love, angst and death.

An expert speculated the thieves might want a ransom or the works are too well known to be sold except to a museum collector, the detective said. "We have found nothing."

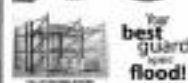
Police confirmed all the museum, national museum and several private and public collections. No shots were fired but a female guard was treated for shock. Up to 70 people were in the museum at the time and perhaps 30 witnessed the robbery.

"I saw one of the men put a gun right behind a guard's head," said Richard Mørten, a 53-year-old French businessman visiting Oslo. "It took a long time for the police to come." One's mother, Marlene Gjølberg, said she saw the two men take the paintings. "We had a black line mark," she told BBC radio. Reuters

STORAGE RACKING SYSTEM

SLOTTED ANGLE BARS

Heavy Duty Rack-Engineered Racking System
Customized for Your Needs



JUSTIC CORPORATION
1000 S. 10th Street, Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85006
Tel: 602-251-1000 Fax: 602-251-1001



Ice Machine

Soft Serve Ice Cream Machine

Cuisinart Coffee Machine

Pasta Rethermalizer

Stainless Reach-in

TECHNOLUX

POWERHOUSE BODEGA SALE

August 24, 25, 26 & 27, 2004



AMCO Shelving



Vertical Hamburger Broiler



Electric Griddle



Conveyorized Electric Oven



Technolux Chemicals



Deep Refrigerator



Holding Cabinet



ALFO-SHAAM Hot Deli Display System



Hot Topping Equipment



Fryer

SMALL WARES:



CAL-MIL



Adcraft



Carisle



TECHNOLUX
Commercial Equipment • Supplies • Services

TECHNOLUX GROUP
4444 E. 10th Ave., Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85006
Tel: 602-251-1000
Fax: 602-251-1001
E-mail: sales@technolux.com

ALFO-SHAAM
4444 E. 10th Ave., Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85006
Tel: 602-251-1000
Fax: 602-251-1001
E-mail: sales@alfo-shaam.com

AMCO
4444 E. 10th Ave., Suite 100
Phoenix, AZ 85006
Tel: 602-251-1000
Fax: 602-251-1001
E-mail: sales@amco.com



BRITANNY
Bay's
Platinum
neighborhood
near the
Duxton house
model with its
large area,
inspiring a
new Victorian
look (popping
with the
architectural
inspiration
proving these
"Prestige
Bay" residences on
Bay
Francisco's
Jensen
Square.



THE DINING area of the Duxton model
house, with new Victorian look (see story
below).



THE DINING area of the Duxton model
house, with new Victorian look (see story
below).

Brittany to launch 2 model homes on Aug. 29

BRITANNY Corp. is set to inaugurate two model homes on Aug. 29, the Duxton model on Victorian Row in Brittany Bay near the Sugar Beaches in Peninsula, and the Swiss Quadrille model at Crosswinds in Tagaytay.



CROSSWINDS
Quadrille model
house features a
large "bathroom" with
a large bed and
a large bathroom
with a large
bathroom.

Brittany is the master developer of high-end residential communities that are raising industry standards for vision, quality of product and value. The company's focus is on creating property value and client satisfaction.

and landscaping, a promenade and a viewing deck, contributing to a casual, relaxed environment. With views of the surrounding area, the Duxton model is a perfect example of the neighborhood and commercial developments.

Exclusive retreat
Crosswinds is a three-inspired, modern-style, an exclusive retreat south of Alibon. The only one planned in the area, it is a collection of single-detached, single-story homes or duplexes. The latter are thoughtfully designed structures, each consisting of two residences that maximize comfort and privacy while maintaining low landscaping.

The area behind the Swiss Quadrille is to be a more place for the entire community, where the residents can enjoy the view, the weather, the sunset and the stars as they relax in the evening.

Crosswinds affords its fortunate residents an escape just a short drive away from the metropolis, where the weather, the sunset and the stars as they relax in the evening.

• **Flags in the country during construction.**
The houses and amenities stand with no roof and to abundance of greenery. There is no structural clutter or overbuilding. Crosswinds is such an attention house that it is a truly beautiful real estate.

Sales update
According to Brittany Corp. president and general manager Jerry Serrano, 45 percent of the units of Victorian Row in Brittany Bay have been sold to date, and a new area will soon be opened. The Duxton classical design model is a collection of architecture. The Swiss Quadrille model is designed by Philip Gray of Graydon Inc.

Crosswinds, Serrano said, the first phase of the Swiss Quadrille has been sold. The second phase, called Crosswinds II, is now open to buyers. The Quadrille's architectural design is modeled by Philip Gray and the model is now open to buyers.

After three inaugurations, properties of Crosswinds in the area and the Quadrille in Crosswinds may be completed by calling 888-888-450-2000 and 450-2250.

Creba's Salinas cited by BIR for dedicated, exemplary service

VICTOR E. Salinas, cited by the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association (CREBA) for his long "years of outstanding service" in real estate for his service to the Bureau of Internal Revenue for his 30 years of dedication, outstanding and exemplary service.

BIR's commendation last Aug. 5, Salinas was cited for his "years of outstanding service" in real estate for his service to the Bureau of Internal Revenue for his 30 years of dedication, outstanding and exemplary service.

Salinas is cited for his "years of outstanding service" in real estate for his service to the Bureau of Internal Revenue for his 30 years of dedication, outstanding and exemplary service.

Salinas is cited for his "years of outstanding service" in real estate for his service to the Bureau of Internal Revenue for his 30 years of dedication, outstanding and exemplary service.

Philip Recto awardees off to Singapore for 2-year training with Architects 61

THE PHILIP Recto Design Associates featured by the UP College of Architecture, announced that Philip Recto will be off to Singapore for a two-year training with Architects 61.



Philip Recto is a graduate of the UP College of Architecture. He is currently a student at the UP College of Architecture. He is currently a student at the UP College of Architecture.



ROCKWELL TOPS OFF THE MAMALALA
Rockwell Land marks the completion of the MAMALALA development. The project is a collection of single-detached, single-story homes or duplexes. The latter are thoughtfully designed structures, each consisting of two residences that maximize comfort and privacy while maintaining low landscaping.

LPPI seeks further growth by offering new product line

FROM AFFORDABLE housing project mostly in the Philippines, LPPI is now the leading provider of affordable housing in the Philippines. The company is now the leading provider of affordable housing in the Philippines.



Dealing with pitfalls
The company's focus is on creating property value and client satisfaction. The company is now the leading provider of affordable housing in the Philippines.

Filling gaps in the market
The company's focus is on creating property value and client satisfaction. The company is now the leading provider of affordable housing in the Philippines.

LPPI's affordable housing project mostly in the Philippines, LPPI is now the leading provider of affordable housing in the Philippines. The company is now the leading provider of affordable housing in the Philippines.

LPPI's affordable housing project mostly in the Philippines, LPPI is now the leading provider of affordable housing in the Philippines. The company is now the leading provider of affordable housing in the Philippines.

LPPI's affordable housing project mostly in the Philippines, LPPI is now the leading provider of affordable housing in the Philippines. The company is now the leading provider of affordable housing in the Philippines.

LPPI's affordable housing project mostly in the Philippines, LPPI is now the leading provider of affordable housing in the Philippines. The company is now the leading provider of affordable housing in the Philippines.

Go after tax cheats instead of law-abiding taxpayers

THE ANTI-GRABBER law, which is a bill to amend the Tax Code, is a good idea. But the government should not go after the law-abiding taxpayers. It should go after the tax cheats.

It is enough that every one pays a 10 percent tax. But the government should not go after the law-abiding taxpayers. It should go after the tax cheats.



OPINION LETTERS
 The government should not go after the law-abiding taxpayers. It should go after the tax cheats.



A way to improve public services

THE 2003-2004 session, there is a call for the government to improve public services. This is a good idea. But the government should not go after the law-abiding taxpayers. It should go after the tax cheats.

It is enough that every one pays a 10 percent tax. But the government should not go after the law-abiding taxpayers. It should go after the tax cheats.

It is enough that every one pays a 10 percent tax. But the government should not go after the law-abiding taxpayers. It should go after the tax cheats.

How efficient is the Supreme Court

THE SUPREME COURT, which is a body of nine justices, is a body of nine justices. It is a body of nine justices. It is a body of nine justices.

It is a body of nine justices. It is a body of nine justices. It is a body of nine justices. It is a body of nine justices.

The second of the proposed is a personal call to the government. It is a personal call to the government. It is a personal call to the government.

It is a personal call to the government. It is a personal call to the government. It is a personal call to the government.

It is a personal call to the government. It is a personal call to the government. It is a personal call to the government.

Let's review our Olympic program

THE OLYMPIC PROGRAM, which is a body of nine justices, is a body of nine justices. It is a body of nine justices. It is a body of nine justices.

It is a body of nine justices. It is a body of nine justices. It is a body of nine justices. It is a body of nine justices.

If you have any comments, suggestions or corrections, please contact the author at the address below.

It is a personal call to the government. It is a personal call to the government. It is a personal call to the government.

It is a personal call to the government. It is a personal call to the government. It is a personal call to the government.

Thursday 8pm + Pagkatapos ng **PRIME** + **ABC**



MABUTING TAO

Sa likod ng Magsaysay Awards

TANONG NG BAYAN
Still no Olympic gold:
Saan tayo nagkulang?

Halid sa inyo ng ating kababalaan ngayong linggo,
Emily Abrera

THIS WEEK'S EPISODE IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
HOPE **MONDOLA**
INO IN TV
Isang Oros Na!

*HONORARY WINNER: To be the Thursday, TEST your "PAGKATAPOS" ON THE WEEK'S TANONG NG BAYAN TO 2010 (TARA SA GUMING, SHIRT AT SUNGLASSES).
 TEST: INO IN TV, MONDOLA, HOPE, MONDOLA, HOPE TO 2010 TEST: INO IN TV, MONDOLA, HOPE TO 2010 TEST: INO IN TV, MONDOLA, HOPE TO 2010

The budget deficit, or the gap between higher expenditures and lower revenues, stood at PT 27.4 billion last year and is expected to be slightly reduced to PT 27.8 billion in 2003 and. The government is aiming to totally wipe it out by 2005 or 2010 through measures like expenditure cuts and increasing of new tax revenues.

Remodeling RP's tax system

By Rene G. Bañez

First of a series

TWO big questions that seriously bother government and business today are: How do we reduce the fiscal deficit, which stood at 5.6 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2003? How do we raise the country's tax effort ratio, which was a mere 13.3 percent of GDP in 2003?

Both questions are not just related. They also rely on the type of tax system we must have if we are to discover the right solutions.

A country adopts a tax system mainly to distribute the funding cost of government activities as equitably as possible among the population.

If the cost is bigger than what government could generate, funding the deficit should be a mere band-aid solution.

Otherwise, the government's fiscal position will be compromised and its debt burden will increase.

To address the twin problems of reducing the fiscal deficit and increasing the country's tax effort ratio that have bogged down the country's economy over the years, government must adopt a framework or roadmap on taxation.

The proposed framework will consider the concerns of both government and business.

Grim realities

Acceptance of certain realities is indispensable if we are to discover relevant and realistic solutions.

Reality No. 1. The revenue and deficit problems are systemic in nature.

A hodgepodge approach, such as creating new taxes and/or increasing the rates, may prove incorrect and difficult to correct once implemented.

We have seen this in the past. More often than not, they only worsened the problems instead of solving them.

Reality No. 2. The country's total debt now stands at over P4 trillion, about 80 percent of which are owed to foreign creditors. This aggravates problems as it exposes government to volatile foreign currencies.

Reality No. 3. National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) data show poverty incidence at 33 percent and 34 percent of the population in 1997 and 2000, respectively.

This is a social volcano waiting to explode unless we, as a nation, are committed and focused in reducing it.

Reality No. 4. The bloated bureaucracy eats up a big portion of the national budget. Does government want to remain the biggest employer in the country or become a model service provider? It has to make a choice to improve its efficiency and effectiveness.

Reality No. 5. The government's expenditure program is grossly misunderstood and mismanaged, either due to lack of proper administration or corrupt practices.

Thus, a typical Filipino taxpayer would rather not pay his taxes correctly.

Undeniably, TAXES are the SOLUTION to our fiscal dilemma.

Conversely it appears that TAXES may also be part of THE PROBLEM.

Fiscal milieu

Before government can evaluate the soundness and feasibility of any proposed tax measure, it must first examine the country's fiscal situation and relate it to tax reform measures undertaken by past administrations.

In the early 1970s, the Philippines was in an economic crisis, reportedly due to the reckless spending of government funds.

Martial law was declared on the pretext that the country was faced with revolutions from both the left and the right.

The US Congress Library chronicled the financial situation after the declaration of martial law as follows:

"In the beginning, Marcos' efforts to create a 'New Society' were supported widely by the business community, both Filipino and foreign, by Washington, and, de facto, by the multilateral institutions. Foreign investment was encouraged: an export-processing zone was opened; a range of additional investment incentives was created, and the Philippines projected itself on to the world economy as a country of low wages and industrial peace. The inflow of international capital increased dramatically.

A general rise in world raw material prices in the early 1970s helped boost the performance of the economy.

Real GNP grew at an average of almost 7 percent a year in the five years after the declaration of martial law, as compared with approximately 5 percent annually in the five preceding years.

The public sector played a much larger role in the 1970s, with the extent of government expenditures in GNP rising by 40 percent in the decade after 1972. To finance the boom, the government extensively resorted to international debt, hence the characterization of the economy of the Marcos era as "debt driven."

"In the latter half of the 1970s, heavy borrowing from transnational commercial banks, multilateral organizations, the United States and other countries masked problems that had begun to appear on the economic horizon with the slowdown of the world economy.

By 1976, the Philippines was among the top 100 recipients of loans from the World Bank and was considered a "country of concentration."

Its balance of payments problem was solved and growth facilitated, at least temporarily but at the cost of having to service an external debt that rose from \$2.3 billion in 1970 to more than \$17.2 billion in 1980.

A financial scandal in January 1981 in which a businessman fled the country with

debts of an estimated P700 million required massive amounts of emergency loans from the Central Bank of the Philippines and other government-owned financial institutions to some 80 firms.

The growth rate of GNP fell dramatically, and from then the economic ills of the Philippines proliferated.

In 1980, there was an abrupt change in economic policy related to the changing world economy and deteriorating internal conditions, with the Philippine government agreeing to reduce the average level and dispersion of tariff rates and to eliminate most quantitative restrictions on trade, in exchange for a \$200 million structural adjustment loan from the World Bank.

Whatever the merits of the policy shift, the timing was miserable.

Exports did not increase substantially, while imports increased dramatically.

The result was growing debt-service payments; emergency loans were forthcoming, but the hemorrhaging did not cease.

It was in this environment in August 1983 that President Marcos' foremost critic, former Sen. Benigno Aquino, returned from exile and was assassinated.

The country was thrown into an economic and political crisis that resulted eventually, in February 1986, in the ending of Marcos' 21-year rule and his flight from the Philippines.

In the meantime, debt repayment had ceased.

Real GNP fell more than 11 percent before turning back up in 1986, and real GNP per capita fell 17 percent from its high point in 1981.

In 1990, per capita real GNP was still 7 percent below the 1981 level.

Roller-coaster ride

The Philippines experienced a budget surplus only four out of

30 years.

Between 1981 and 2002, budget surpluses were recorded only from 1994 to 1997.

This resulted in a budget deficit that increased from just 1.9 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1998 to about 4.7 percent in 2003.

For government to meet urgent developmental needs and propel economic growth, it must increase public expenditures.

However, in view of the buildup of debt service costs, the only way this can be done is to raise revenue collection.

Each year, interest payments have grown faster than revenues.

In 1994 (the first of four years of a fiscal surplus), the government spent P17 in interest payments for every P100 of public revenues, according to data from the Congressional Planning and Budget Office. For projects and other needs (classified as "development funds"), it spent P31.

But in 2003, interest payments grew to P28, while development funds shrank to just P19.

This shows that there was deterioration in development funds from 1994 to 2003 by 39 percent, but a hefty growth in interest payments by 65 percent.

These figures strongly suggest that government needs to increase its revenue generation by as much as 3 percent of GDP and do it quickly.

If debt service costs grow faster than revenues, tax collections must be increased just to service past debts.

As this provides no improvement in public services, it becomes politically difficult to do, while the debt problem could quickly escalate into a financial crisis.

To be continued

(The author, a former commissioner of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, delivered this paper at the Ateneo Law School, where he is a professor of tax law.)



PSBank
 PHILIPPINE SAVINGS BANK
 INCORPORATED

**Peso
 Time
 Deposit**

Deposit Amount (in pesos)	Interest Rates (%)		
	30-60 days	61-90 days	1 year
100,000 - 499,999	5.25	5.50	6.50
500,000 - 999,999	6.00	6.25	7.50
1.0MM - 4,999,999	7.25	7.50	8.00
5 million and up	7.25	7.50	8.25

Quoted rates are subject to change without prior notice. Rates are on per annum basis and net of documentary stamp taxes. Interest rates for other terms also available.

Visit any of our 121 PSBank Branches nationwide.

Member of the PDB. Maximum Deposit Insurance for Each Depositor: P100,000.00

**More and more
 people read
 Cebu Daily News.
 Be one of them.**



**CEBU
 DAILY NEWS**

Q&A on 3A's

/C3

LIFE STYLE

For more news and information, please visit our website at www.inquirer.com or call 1-800-888-8888.

Editor: Chris @ Mail @ Inquirer

MONDAY ARTS • TUESDAY FITNESS • WEDNESDAY TRAVEL • THURSDAY FOOD • FRIDAY HOME & FASHION • SUNDAY SURPRISES



Competitors fused the character and energy of the streets through electrifying body language to win a trip to the American film capital

TRINITY, 1994, and perfect her moves before we're awarded a winning Gold's Gym's to go to "Hip-Hop from 'W' to Hollywood" competition.

Hip-hop, hooray for Hollywood

Text by Jesse A. Jaramilla
Photos by Joseph M. Rodriguez

PORT lock, break. Street, funk, club. Old school to new school, hip-hop speaks the international language of music and lines for the artistry of spontaneous body movement. It is an untranslatable street culture, a rare musical response to the pulsating beat, with most of its magic—and hip-hop magic—in love.

Caught in this rough-and-tough urban world is a young generation of Filipinos who learned in the street "Hip-Hop from 'W' to Hollywood" competition, sponsored by Gold's Gym Body Shop and Gold's Gym with the Philippine International Competition, American International (Pint). It was a full-on-the-beat challenge, with competitors learning the moves only minutes before a hot judging.

"Hip-hop is a dance, but it takes someone with an attitude to really pull it off," says Lito Briones, Gold's Gym fitness manager and Pinoy dancing power.

And attitude, attitude, attitude, is what, across the competition, found the character and energy of the street—a cultural interpretation, if you will—through physically demanding and electrifying body language. Of the 10 winners, five represented the country in the third World Hip-Hop Dance Competition in Los Angeles, California.

Dance culture

Three years ago, the World Sports Institute introduced hip-hop as an annual competition, officially making the emerging dance a sport. In 1991, the first World Hip-Hop Dance Competition was held in Los Angeles, California. It was the first time that the World Sports Institute supported Pinoy hip-hop dancers in the annual world hip-hop competition.

Although hip-hop is probably still in its formative years, the passion and energy are a testament to its strength. This



A FUSION of street dance and cultural influences, it was an amazing world. Hip-hop is something no one can deny. It's not only a dance, it's a lifestyle.



It's about culture, music, style, and street style, and maintaining control of the speed, direction, momentum and body placement throughout the dancing routine.



A cheese-y affair

I t was "any cheese" everywhere, and we don't mean going for pizzas, pastas, but the fabulous platters of gourmet dining brought to us by the Cheese Club of the Philippines through its Cheese and Wine Degustation Party at the Grand Continental Manila's Grand Ballroom.

Though here to do for cheese and wine, the event, complemented by highly baked breads from the hotel's bakery, had cheese lovers craving slices of pizza, pasta, and wine. The event was a surprise spread of food and wine for cheese and wine lovers.

The cheese platter consisted of Swiss, Gruyere, Cheddar, Brie de Meun, Gouda, the Roquefort, Comté, Emmentaler, and St. Emilion. The cheese platter was served with a selection of wine, including Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, and Merlot.

Brimming with pride over the successful happening was the event's general manager, the popular Bette Wong, who welcomed the guests. She said the event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maureen Arcebol
Photo by Alex Van Hagen
on Kodak M64

Now it's time

The special event featured a variety of cheese and wine pairings. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

great champagne toast, members of the Cheese Club of the Philippines (CCP) had a great time.

It was a good night for cheese and wine lovers. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

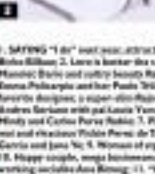
The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.

The event was a success and that the guests had a great time. The event was a success and that the guests had a great time.





From couch potato to fitness fanatic in six steps

All those who quit smoking and they will tell you they tried to quit a number of times before they finally succeeded. The same is true for regular runners. These people start and stop exercising several times before they catch the "runner's bug" for good.

Recently a scientist told me that the remaining temptation for about a year, she is going to a running to work out without pants. Will she be permanently transformed from couch potato to fitness fanatic? It all depends on whether she's psychologically ready or not.

From his research with students, psychologist James Prochaska, observational psychologist through various of professional stages before looking a permanent lifestyle change. He called it the "Six stages of change model."

Other psychologists have applied Prochaska's theory to other behaviors like weight management, exercise, self-esteem, and substance abuse. They can apply it to any major change you want to make.

By understanding the stages you are

WELL AND GOOD

JAMES PROCHASKA



so you will be able to judge if you are psychologically ready to make a permanent commitment to fitness. By using Prochaska's eye in the book, "Changing for Good," you can "push yourself into the next stage or prevent regression to the previous stage."

Understanding the process of change will also give you more patience with a loved one who is trying to lose fat to change an unhealthy habit but can't quite succeed.

Precontemplation

People in this stage are not even thinking of change. If this is you, you may have decided to get 30.3 five years ago but, right now, you don't see any good reason to workout.

Prochaska says a good way to push

yourself into the next stage—thinking about exercise—is to learn about what things can do for you. This can happen by reading, attending seminars, listening to information on the radio, or talking to friends about what exercise has done for them.

Contemplation

In this stage, people acknowledge they need to exercise, whether it would be good for them. They want to work out but don't have a definite date or plan, so they're not in action.

Prochaska says people can stay at this stage for years. What will remain, is just access into doing something? He says, while brain research says knowledge about fitness can also lead to fitness, "substantially flawed" about your health-care books.

Some experts on the S.E.E., it is a "significantly increased experience."

Others call it the "enough is enough" moment when you decide to act.

It also helps that something helps like the death of a young relative from stroke to something pretty like smoking

cessation can

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Three-way back extension



THIS exercise is inspired by the yoga pose, The Locust. It strengthens the buttocks, hamstrings, upper and lower back.

Equipment:

Exercise mat or yoga mat

Directions:

1. Lie face-down with your legs together and arms beside you, with palms facing the floor.

2. Lift your upper body and legs.

3. Hold each arm parallel to your legs, shoulder level, working forward, shoulder level and by your hips, the the

second.

Performance tips:

1. Maintain good neck alignment by lengthening your neck and looking down at the mat, not the toes or the floor.

2. Concentrate on lengthening muscles, pulling your whole body from the top of your head to the tips of your toes.

3. Breathe in and exhale to make sure your change is consistent or possible.

4. If you have lower back problems, please consult your doctor first.

Repetitions:

Do one or two cycles.